

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rumpler (WO89/05709).

By the present invention, a wood workpiece is machined by at least two machining tools in a single work station. A first conveying system is located in a feeding region of the single work station. A second conveying system is located in a discharge region of the single work station. At least one of the first and second conveying systems includes a positioning system to position the workpiece for a plurality of machining operations in the single work station by the machining tools. A front end region of the workpiece is machined in the work station and a machining of a remainder of the plurality of machining operations on the wood workpiece in the work station is controlled by the positioning system directing the conveying systems to exactly position the wood workpiece for the plurality of machining operations by the machining tools. The machining tools are moved along several axes in coordination with the conveying systems to complete the plurality of machining operations in the single work station.

In the Rumpler patent, all machine operations are performed on a material which is “cut or machined in a predetermined position of the sawing tool”. Accordingly, this reference fails to teach the cooperation between the positioning of

a wood workpiece and moving of machining tools along several axes in coordination with the conveying systems to complete a plurality of machining operations in a single work station. Further, it appears from Figure 26 of the Rumpler patent that there is only a single conveying system located at a feeding region of the equipment. The single conveying system is responsible for clamping and moving an elongated workpiece to a predetermined position where a sawing tool in a “predetermined position” performs a cutting or machining.

In contrast, the present invention includes a conveying system at a feeding region and a separate second conveying system in a discharge region of a single work station. By the two conveying systems, a wood workpiece can be fed into the work station and conveyed to a discharge region for instantaneous initiation of working on a subsequent following wood workpiece conveyed into the work station.

In the Rumpler reference, the fed workpiece must be retracted through the single conveying system and removed prior to initiation of feeding of a subsequent workpiece. Accordingly, for the various distinctions noted between amended claim 1 and the Rumpler patent, it is respectfully submitted that the method of the present invention, as defined in claims 1-8, is in condition for allowance.

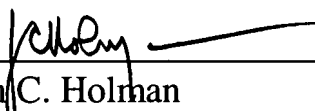
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish

over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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